

work with parental choice in schools in the Hurricane's aftermath that basically destroyed a lot of public school infrastructure. We had been personal friends ever since that first meeting.

Robbie helped lead a "Phoenix from the ashes" movement in the New Orleans schools. The success was due to the need to throw away the old bureaucracy, rules, and the attitude that the schools existed for the adults in them rather than for the kids. Robbie helped turn that all-around, attracting national attention for the model. He devoted hundreds of hours annually to improving New Orleans public schools and the lives of the students attending them. He was an unapologetic advocate for inner-city students attending Lafayette Academy and Esperanza Charter School. He served as a board member for the Choice Foundation where he was both the Vice Chairman and Executive Committee member. Robbie served on many other boards and committees, each with a goal to improve and enhance the economic environment or educational opportunity of his community.

Robbie was a man of high character and integrity. He had a servant's heart for his community and those who live in it. His love for New Orleans and its culture was evident in his words and actions. Robbie was an art, architecture, and history enthusiast. He loved to travel the country and world meeting new people and experiencing different cultures. He was a friend to many people and an advocate for more. His obituary was correct in all respects, including that he indeed was a terrible driver.

Robbie leaves Barbara, his beloved wife of 34 years, his daughter and son, and many other family and friends to carry on his legacy of service to their communities. Anyone who knew him well knows what a great loss his passing is for New Orleans and our nation. Rest in peace Robbie, you will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY BEILENSEN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of the Honorable Anthony C. Beilenson—father, husband, grandfather, California legislator, and United States Congressman—who passed away on March 5, 2017.

Tony Beilenson grew up in New Rochelle, New York. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1957, he moved to Los Angeles to practice law in the film industry. Always striving to give back to the world and do as much good as possible, Tony decided to forgo his legal practice to serve the public and he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1962. In 1966, he continued his service to the people of California and was elected to the State Senate.

During his tenure in the California State Legislature, Tony worked hard to protect the environment and reproductive rights, and was respected by his colleagues regardless of party for his unparalleled collegiality and civility when working to address the most chal-

lenging issues of his time. He was widely known for voting and acting according to his thoughtful and well-informed conscience, which inspired his colleagues to eschew partisanship and elevate constructive discourse.

Tony continued his legacy of effective and impactful lawmaking when he was elected in 1976 to serve in Congress, representing parts of the San Fernando Valley, Thousand Oaks and Agoura Hills. He will forever be remembered for his landmark 1978 legislation that established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, protecting part of Southern California's most treasured natural landscape for future generations to explore and enjoy.

As a Member of Congress, Tony fought hard to support environmental initiatives such as the Clean Air Act and securing funding for the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Refuge and Lake Balboa Park, which was renamed the Anthony C. Beilenson Park in 1998. He was a powerful advocate for reducing government waste and promoting efficiency. Tony's former colleagues share a deep respect for the integrity, class, and sensibility that he championed throughout his tenure in office.

Tony is survived by his wife, Dolores; his sons, Adam and Peter; his daughter Dayna; and nine grandchildren. I hope that his family will take comfort in the remarkable legacy that he established at every turn of his life as an accomplished public servant. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

HONORING MR. BRENDEN SHIPLEY WITH THE 2017 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Mr. Brenden Shipley of West Palm Beach with the Congressional Award of Bronze and Silver Medals. Since 1979, the Congressional Award has inspired our nation's youth to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service. Recipients are committed to bettering themselves and to giving back to the communities in which they reside. It is the fulfilling of that commitment, which makes these young people so extraordinary.

Mr. Shipley took on the challenge of earning two medals: Bronze and Silver. Earning these awards requires a minimum of 400 hours of community service. He served his community by volunteering at the Kids Cancer Foundation, tutoring kids in math, cleaning the football field at school, and helping one of his friends move into his new home. In addition, he learned how to build a house and commercial buildings, and improved his physical fitness for his senior year football season by weightlifting and boxing. Furthermore, Mr. Shipley planned a seventeen day trip to France, England, Ireland, and Wales to immerse himself in an unfamiliar culture and to develop a spirit of adventure.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." I believe that Mr.

Brenden Shipley is a remarkable young man who exemplifies that true character. I am honored to present him with the 2017 Congressional Award for Bronze and Silver Medals, and to recognize him for all of his hard work in the West Palm Beach community. I wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2017

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1966—51 years ago, this past Saturday—Dr. King spoke these words: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death."

We came to this floor to fight TrumpCare last week with the moral force of Dr. Martin Luther King's words in our heart. Affordable health care is a civil right; a fundamental right for every American. As we remember Dr. King's wisdom, as we debated this bill: we did so in tribute to our colleague BOBBY RUSH's late wife, Carolyn Rush. Carolyn was active in the civil rights movement, and she was a champion for Americans' health care. Her funeral was Saturday, the 51st anniversary of Dr. King's words. We were proud to honor Carolyn Rush's memory by saving the Affordable Care Act from repeal and protecting the health of the American people.

Speaker RYAN called this bill an "act of mercy." There is no mercy here. Indeed, inequality and inhumanity is exactly what TrumpCare has in store for the American people.

Sister Simone Campbell said: "This is not the faithful way forward and must be rejected." The Catholic Health Association wrote: "We strongly encourage the full House to reject this 'replacement' bill." As the United Methodist Church said, opposing TrumpCare: "People will die because of efforts like this to roll back health care." Lutheran Services in America said TrumpCare "will jeopardize the health care and long term services and supports of millions of Americans." The Episcopal Church says TrumpCare "falls woefully short of our spiritual calling to care for the 'least of these,' as well as the noble values upon which our great nation was founded."

Rather than an act of mercy, TrumpCare is a moral monstrosity that will devastate seniors, children and hard-working Americans. I grant our Republican friends their position. I respect them and their constituents who sent them here. But I do not accept the wrong priorities in TrumpCare—tax cuts for the rich at the expense of tens of millions of working families across America.

TrumpCare spotlights the difference in the priorities of the Democrats and Republicans in Congress—whether we in Congress believe in a public role in meeting the needs of the American people. It is about governance itself. Trumpcare is consistent with the Ryan budget that destroys the Medicare guarantee. It is a step forward in the long-standing Republican belief that Medicare should "wither on the